

## Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)...



*...is the **FOUNDATION** of NRCS.*

### ***The Program***

The **Conservation Technical Assistance Program (CTA)** provides voluntary conservation technical assistance to land-users, communities, units of state and local government, and other Federal agencies in planning and implementing conservation systems. This assistance is for planning and implementing conservation practices that address natural resource issues. It helps people voluntarily conserve, improve, and sustain natural resources.

***Using this program, farmers and ranchers apply practices that:***

- reduce soil erosion
- improve water quality and quantity
- enhance forest land, wetlands, grazing lands, and wildlife habitat
- improve soil health
- improve air quality
- improve pasture and range health
- reduce upstream flooding
- improve woodlands
- address other natural resource issues

***Using this program, NRCS is able to:***

**1)** Collect, analyze, interpret, display, and disseminate information about the condition and trends of the Nation's soil and other natural resources (i.e., National Resources Inventory, NRI)

**2)** Develop effective science-based technologies for natural resource assessment, management, and conservation.

**3)** Provide technical assistance for planning and implementing natural resource solutions to help landowners reach natural resource goals while getting sound conservation practices onto the land.

NRCS services are based on the practical delivery of science-based technology through more than 150 technical standards. Standards are developed nationally but are customized to meet the needs of Colorado producers. State and local governments that manage local resource programs also use these standards.



## Through CTA NRCS is able to support...

### *Assistance to American Indian Tribes*

Colorado has two full-time NRCS employees located at the tribal headquarters offices of the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute Tribes. These employees work with the tribal agricultural and natural resources staff and American Indian agricultural producers delivering conservation technical assistance and USDA financial assistance programs. They ensure operators on Indian lands receive equitable access and opportunities to participate in USDA programs and benefits.

### *Conservation Partnerships*

NRCS uses its strong partnerships with various agricultural and environmental agencies and organizations to achieve sound conservation goals.

#### **Colorado Association of Conservation Districts (CACD)**

The mission of Colorado's Conservation Districts is to provide leadership for the conservation of natural resources to ensure the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of the state through "a responsible conservation ethic." Colorado now has 77 conservation districts (CD).

#### **Colorado State Conservation Board (CSCB)**

CSCB is responsible for coordinating the activities of Colorado's 77 CDs. As such, the Board provides technical assistance to districts, as well as financial assistance for priority conservation needs identified by the districts. The Board is an agency of the **Colorado Department of Agriculture**.

#### **Colorado Cooperative Extension, Colorado State University (CSU)**

CSU Cooperative Extension ("county agents") provides information and education to support Colorado's conservation efforts. It also counsels, educates, and trains CDs in economics, engineering, agronomy, soil, animal science, food science, forestry, and many other areas.

Other key conservation partners include:

- Army Corps of Engineers (COE)
- Colorado Cattlemen's Association
- Colorado Cattlewomen Inc.
- Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW)
- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPH&E)
- Colorado Farm Bureau
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- Farmers Union
- Farm Service Agency (FSA)
- USDA Forest Service (USFS)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

### *NRCS Liaison Positions*

Colorado has three full-time NRCS employees serving in liaison roles. These positions are with the Western Governors Association, National Park Service Plant Materials, and the Society for Range Management. These liaisons provide technical assistance and serve as advisors to our partners in regard to NRCS programs and activities.

### *NRCS Conservation Education*

NRCS is committed to exposing the vitality of conservation to tomorrow's land stewards. Through:

- Earth Day projects
- Water Festivals
- Tours
- Demonstration Projects
- Field Days
- Outdoor Classrooms
- Teacher's Workshops, and much more

NRCS plays an important role in instilling from one generation to another, the understanding that conserving our natural resources is imperative.

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